

In th Claims

1           1.     [Currently Amended]   A method of document management,  
2 comprising:

3           providing a document comprising an original document;

4           scanning the document with a scanning machine configured to determine  
5 if the original document has a machine-readable code thereon; the scanning  
6 machine being further configured to extract at least some information from the  
7 machine-readable code if the machine readable code is present on the original  
8 document;

9           providing a database of information that can be present in the machine-  
10 readable code on the original document, the providing the database of  
11 information comprising providing before the scanning; and

12          comparing at least some of any information extracted from the machine-  
13 readable code by the scanning machine with the information in the database to  
14 track the document.

1           2.     [Original]   The method of claim 1 wherein the providing the  
2 document comprises printing the document with a printing device which prints  
3 the machine-readable code on the document; and wherein the printing device is  
4 in data communication with the database.

1           3.     [Original]   The method of claim 1 wherein the scanning machine is  
2 linked with a copying machine configured for copying the document, wherein  
3 the information contained in the machine-readable code defines if the document  
4 can be copied, and wherein the copier is configured to copy the document  
5 unless the scanning machine finds the machine-readable code on the document  
6 and extracts information from the machine-readable code not authorizing the  
7 copying.

1           4.     [Original] The method of claim 1 wherein the scanning machine is  
2 linked with a copying machine configured for copying the document, wherein  
3 the information contained in the machine-readable code defines if the document  
4 can be copied, and wherein the copier is configured to not copy the document  
5 unless the scanning machine finds the machine-readable code on the document  
6 and extracts information from the machine-readable code authorizing the  
7 copying.

1           5.     [Currently Amended] The method of claim 1 wherein the  
2 information included in the machine-readable code includes ~~one or more of a~~  
3 ~~version number of the document, an identification of an author of the document,~~  
4 ~~a filename of the document, and~~ a storage location of a file corresponding to the  
5 document.

1           6.     [Original] A method of automated document tracking, comprising:  
2           generating a primary image on a document with either a printer or a first  
3 copying machine;  
4           printing a machine-readable code on the document as it is generated; the  
5 machine-readable code containing information, the printing device being in data  
6 communication with a database so that the information printed in machine-  
7 readable code on the document is also recorded in the database;  
8           scanning the document with a scanning machine configured to determine  
9 if the machine readable code is present on the document and further configured  
10 to extract at least some of the information from the machine-readable code; and  
11           comparing the information extracted from the machine-readable code by  
12 the scanning machine with the information in the database to track the  
13 document.

1           7.     [Original] The method of claim 6 wherein the scanning machine is  
2 linked with a second copying machine configured for copying the document,  
3 wherein the information contained in the machine-readable code defines if the  
4 document can be copied, and wherein the second copying machine is configured  
5 to copy the document unless the scanning machine finds machine-readable code

6 on the document and extracts information from the machine-readable code not  
7 authorizing the copying.

1 8. [Original] The method of claim 6 wherein the scanning machine is  
2 linked with a second copying machine configured for copying the document,  
3 wherein the information contained in the machine-readable code defines if the  
4 document can be copied, and wherein the second copying machine is configured  
5 to not copy the document unless the scanning machine finds the machine-  
6 readable code on the document and extracts information from machine-readable  
7 code authorizing the copying.

1 9. [Original] The method of claim 8 wherein the machine-readable  
2 code is configured such that it will not be fully reproduced on any copies formed  
3 by copying the original document with the second copying machine.

1 10. [Original] The method of claim 9 wherein the machine-readable  
2 code is printed with at least one of a resolution or tonal difference that cannot  
3 be reproduced by the second copying machine.

1 11. [Original] The method of claim 9 wherein the machine-readable  
2 code is printed with an ink that is not visible when viewed with only light in the  
3 visible wavelength range, said ink becoming visible when stimulated with light  
4 outside of the visible wavelength range.

1 12. [Original] The method of claim 8 wherein the machine-readable  
2 code is configured such that it is reproduced on copies formed by copying the  
3 original document with the second copying machine.

1 13. [Original] The method of claim 8 wherein the second copying  
2 machine is configured with a second printing device that prints a new machine-  
3 readable code on any copies formed from the document.

1           14. [Original] The method of claim 8 wherein the document is  
2 generated with the first copying machine, and wherein the second copying  
3 machine and the first copying machine are the same copying machine.

1           15. [Original] The method of claim 8 wherein the second copying  
2 machine is configured to identify a user requesting a copy of the document,  
3 wherein the information contained in the machine-readable code defines if the  
4 document can be copied by particular users, and wherein the second copying  
5 machine is configured to not copy the document unless the scanning machine  
6 finds the machine-readable code and extracts information from the machine-  
7 readable code authorizing the copying by the user identified by the second  
8 copying machine as requesting a copy of the original document.

**Claims 16-20 are canceled.**

1           21. [New] The method of claim 1 wherein the information contained in  
2 the machine-readable code defines a version of the document and the scanning  
3 comprises scanning a scanned version of the document, and further comprising:  
4           storing a digital representation of the scanned version of the document  
5 together with digital representations of other versions of the document using the  
6 database; and  
7           determining that the digital representations of the other versions of the  
8 document are in the database.

1           22. [New] The method of claim 1 wherein the providing the original  
2 document comprises providing the document comprising a hard image formed  
3 for the first time on physical output media.

1           23. [New] The method of claim 1 wherein the providing the original  
2 document comprises providing the document comprising a hard image formed  
3 for the first time on physical output media comprising paper.

1           24.   [New] The method of claim 6 wherein the scanning machine is  
2 linked with a processor that is in data communication with the database and in  
3 data communication with a second printer, and the determining comprises  
4 determining using the processor, and further comprising the processor enabling  
5 either the scanned version of the document or at least one of the other versions  
6 of the document stored in the database as digital representations to be printed  
7 by the second printer.

1           25.   [New] The method of claim 6 wherein the generating comprises  
2 generating the primary image on the document comprising an original document,  
3 and the printing comprises printing the machine-readable code on the original  
4 document as it is generated.

1           26.   [New] The method of claim 6 wherein the generating the primary  
2 image on the document comprises forming the primary image on physical output  
3 media for the first time.

1           27.   [New] A document tracking method comprising:  
2           accessing an original document formed for the first time upon output  
3 media, the original document comprising a primary image and a machine-  
4 readable code containing information;  
5           extracting at least some of the information from the accessed original  
6 document;  
7           accessing additional information corresponding to the information of the  
8 machine-readable code from a database; and  
9           comparing the information extracted from the machine-readable code with  
10 the additional information accessed from the database to track the document.

1           28.   [New] The method of claim 27 further comprising generating the  
2 original document using a hard imaging device, and wherein the generating  
3 comprises storing the information of the machine-readable code as the additional  
4 information within the database.

1           29.   [New] A document tracking method comprising:  
2           accessing a document comprising a machine-readable code;  
3           providing a database comprising a plurality of digital representations of a  
4 plurality of different versions of the document including a first version  
5 corresponding to the document and an other version corresponding to an other  
6 version of the document;  
7           extracting information from the machine-readable code of the accessed  
8 document; and  
9           determining the presence of the digital representation of the other version  
10 of the document within the database using the extracted information.

1           30.   [New] The method of claim 29 further comprising hard imaging  
2 one of the first version and the other version of the document after the  
3 determining.

1           31.   [New] The method of claim 29 wherein the accessing comprises  
2 accessing an original document.

1           32.   [New] A document tracking system comprising:  
2           an interface configured to access an original document comprising  
3 machine-readable code, and to generate a digital representation of the original  
4 document; and  
5           a processor coupled with the interface and configured to process the  
6 digital representation of the document to extract information from the machine-  
7 readable code, to access a database comprising additional information  
8 corresponding to the extracted information, and to compare the extracted  
9 information with the additional information to track the document.

1           33.   [New] The system of claim 32 wherein the processor is configured  
2 to use the extracted information to determine whether copying of the original  
3 document is permitted, and to control a hard imaging device to generate a hard  
4 copy of the original document if copying is permitted.

1           34.   [New] The system of claim 32 wherein the database comprises a  
2 plurality of digital representations of a plurality of different versions of the  
3 document including a first version corresponding to the accessed original  
4 document and an other version corresponding to an other version of the  
5 document, and the processor is configured to determine the presence of the  
6 digital representation of the other version of the document within the database  
7 using the extracted information.

1           35.   [New] The system of claim 34 wherein the processor is configured  
2 to enable the generation of a hard copy of at least one of the first version and  
3 the other version of the document using a hard imaging device.